

BEST AVAILABLE COPY**REMARKS - General**

In the Examiner's office letter dated 3/21/03, the Examiner recites the following groups of claims of the Applicant's invention and states reasons for the restriction of the Applicant's claims for examination purposes as follows:

- I. Claims 1-18, 53-54, drawn to a chemical composition, classified in class 71, subclass 31.
- II. Claims 19-33 and 35, 49-50, drawn to slow-release chemical composition, classified in class 71, subclass 64.11.
- III. Claims 34, 36-48, drawn to a slow release binder system, classified in class 71, subclass 64.11.
- IV. Claims 51-52, drawn to a process of making, classified in class 264.

The Applicant elects the claims of Group I for examination purposes, namely claims 1-18 and 53-54, and hereby cancels the claims of Groups II, III and IV. The Applicant reserves the right to file additional divisional applications for the claims of Groups II, III and IV in due course.

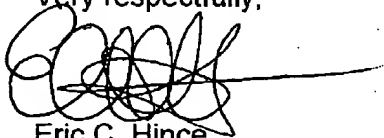
Conditional Request for Constructive Assistance

The Applicant is confused by the Examiner's remarks in the "Conclusion and Summary" section (first paragraph) of the office letter dated 3/21/03, as they pertain to the requirements to make a "proper" election/restriction of claims for examination purposes. If, for any reason, the Applicant's election of claims herein is not deemed proper, or if this application is not believed to be in full condition for allowance, the applicant respectfully requests the constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner pursuant to M.P.E.P. §2173.02 and §707.07(j) in order that the undersigned can place this application in allowable condition for

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examination purposes as soon as possible. The Applicant would be amenable to making minor corrections, such as the potential need for further clarification of the Applicant's election and restriction of claims for examination purposes, via a future telephone conference with the Examiner to reduce the administrative burden on both the Examiner and the Applicant.

Very respectfully,



Eric C. Hince
Applicant

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Certificate of Facsimile Transmission: I certify that on the date below this document and referenced attachments, if any, have been transmitted to the USPTO/examiner at the facsimile number: (703) 872-9310

20 June 2003


Eric C. Hince, Applicant